



EAGLE ALLIANCE



A safe healthy, sustainable society, realizing the full potential of nuclear technology

Our Thanks to Paul Newman—Quiet Supporter of Nuclear Energy

With the passing of actor, philanthropist, and world champion race car driver and team owner Paul Newman on September 26, the world also lost a great friend of nuclear energy. Several officers or leaders of the Eagle Alliance and the American Nuclear Society (ANS) who have been associated with him in these efforts for several years want to express our appreciation for the role he played in promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. A man who achieved great success in his personal life also fostered many philanthropic programs worldwide that continue as a result of his efforts; one of these is the use of his Newman Wachs Racing (NWR) team to carry the Nuclear--Clean Air Energy message for several years.

Paul Newman is almost as well-known as a racing enthusiast and entrepreneur as he is a purveyor of foodstuffs to benefit charity—and, incidentally, a multiple Academy Award winning actor. Newman supported nuclear energy and reiterated that support after a May 2007 visit to the Indian Point Energy Center in Buchanan, N.Y. “Indian Point is an important source of electricity for millions of New Yorkers today,” Newman noted after the visit. “Because it doesn’t produce any emissions that cause global warming, Indian Point will be even more important in the future.”



Newman discussed nuclear issues with Susan Eisenhower and Al Trivelpiece in Las Vegas.

In 2006 we invited Susan Eisenhower to visit the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and the Yucca Mountain Project and to speak at the Atomic Testing Museum. The enticement was a meeting at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway with Paul Newman. As a follow-on, in 2005 and 2006 he and Joanne Woodward hosted Eisenhower Forums on Nuclear Energy (dinner-discussions with senior policy makers and U.S. industry leaders) in their home.



Driving an Atlantic Championship race car carrying graphics and decals to communicate nuclear energy’s clean-air benefits, 19-year-old Simona de Silvestro bested the competition to win the opening race of the 2008 Atlantic Championship season in Long Beach, Calif (NWR’s first victory). The native of Switzerland, who is the only woman to ever place on the podium at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, is only the second woman to win a race in the 35-year-old Atlantic Championship Racing series. Immediately afterward the team stopped by UNLV to recruit engineering students.

A well-known nature conservationist and activist, Newman began his conversion to nuclear advocacy when he played the role of General Leslie Groves, supervisor of the Manhattan Project, in the movie *Fat Man and Little Boy* (1992). The movie’s technical advisor was ANS award winner Richard Rhodes, author of *The Making of the Atomic Bomb* (1988 Pulitzer Prize in nonfiction) and *Nuclear Renewal*. They became lifelong close friends, and Rhodes continued to advise Newman about nuclear energy to the best of his ability. When questioned extensively in 2001 about disposition of used nuclear fuel, Rhodes referred Newman to current EA 2nd VP Denis Beller, his co-author of “The Need for Nuclear Power” (*Foreign Affairs*, 2000). Beller invited Newman to visit Las Vegas in 2002 to learn more, to see a hydrogen-fueled internal combustion engine at a racing shop, and to tour Yucca Mountain. This visit and subsequent activities and initiatives supported by the Eagle Alliance and the ANS (including several local and student sections) resulted in Newman and team co-owner Eddie Wachs placing nuclear-related decals on their cars in 2006 and 2007 at no cost to any nuclear organization or corporation--first of the ANS, then the Eagle Alliance, Excel Services Corp., and others. This clean air energy promotion was completely philanthropic. These efforts of ANS and EA members and leaders eventually lead to the nuclear industry (Nuclear Energy Institute and Entergy) sponsoring NWR’s first victory in 2008.

The Eagle Alliance is an advocacy, grassroots organization of professionals and supporters of nuclear science and technology, including nuclear medicine, national security, industrial applications, food irradiation, and nuclear energy.

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